

DO YOU NEED MORE TIME TO:

- ★ COMPLETE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GET YOUR GED?
- ★ ATTEND COLLEGE OR A VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOL?
- ★ FIND A JOB?
- ★ WORK AND ATTEND SCHOOL?
- ★ FIND HOUSING?

DO YOU NEED OR WANT TO ATTEND A PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY TO HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR JOB SKILLS?

DOES A MEDICAL CONDITION PREVENT YOU FROM DOING ANY OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES?

WOULD YOU LIKE CONTINUED SUPPORT WHILE YOU PURSUE THESE ACTIVITIES?



FURTHER INFORMATION

Learn more about Extended Care including Supervised Independent Living at Texas Youth Connection, www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth

Questions can be sent to: EFC@dfps.state.tx.us



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INTERESTED IN EXTENDING YOUR TIME IN DFPS CARE TO WORK ON YOUR CAREER OR EDUCATIONAL GOALS?

VOLUNTARY EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM



AS A YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXTEND YOUR TIME IN DFPS CARE AS A YOUNG ADULT TO PURSUE YOUR EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER GOALS UNTIL THE AGE OF 21 AND IN SOME CASES UP TO 22.

You can enroll in college, vocational training, go to work or enter a program or activity to improve your job skills. If you have a medical condition that prevents you from going to school or becoming employed you may stay in care until age 21.

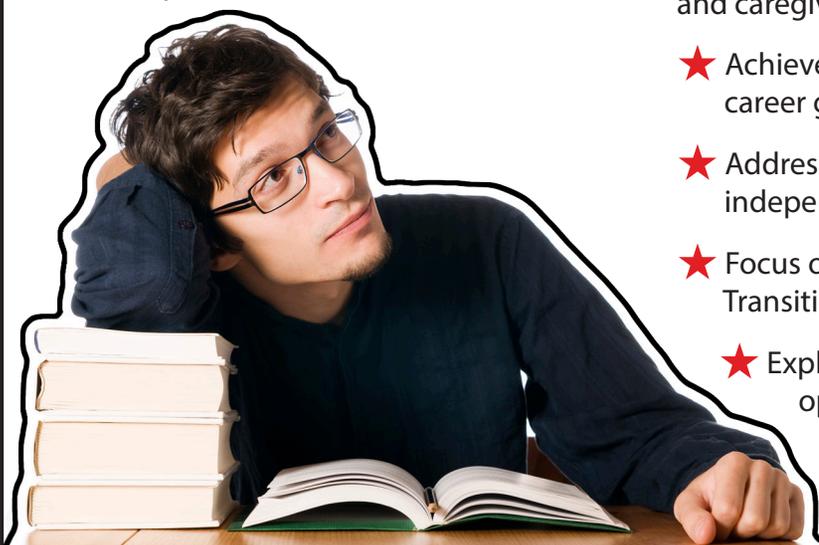
If you agree to extend your stay in care, talk to your CPS caseworker, they will explain the process and rules to you. This must be done before you turn 18. If you are concerned about your current placement, your CPS caseworker will explore alternative placement options to help support extended care and your transition plan.

You may also want to consider a Supervised Independent Living placement option, talk to your caseworker.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY?

To stay in Extended Care as a young adult, you must agree to accept the rules and responsibilities outlined in the voluntary agreement and those of the placement you are in. You must also participate fully in whichever option you choose. While in care you will work with your caseworker and caregiver to:

- ★ Achieve your educational and career goals.
- ★ Address long term plans for independence.
- ★ Focus on meeting the goals in your Transition Plan.
- ★ Explore less restrictive placement options or rule changes to support you as you move towards independence.



RETURN OPTIONS

DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU LEAVE CARE AFTER 18, OR LATER, YOU GET A TRIAL PERIOD OF LIVING INDEPENDENTLY AND YOU MAY COME BACK INTO CARE TO PURSUE YOUR EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER GOALS?

If you want to return to the Extended Care program, you must:

- ★ talk to your PAL staff;
- ★ understand the court may extend its jurisdiction over your case;
- ★ sign or re-sign a Voluntary Foster Care agreement;
- ★ agree to participate in one of the Extended Care activities within 30 days of being placed; and
- ★ be offered an available placement.

If you leave care and go away to college you can return to care during the school holidays or vacations lasting a month or more as long as there is an available placement. You must meet the requirements of the Extended Care program and sign a voluntary agreement.

CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL PAL STAFF TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR RETURNING TO EXTENDED CARE.

PAL STAFF NAME:

PHONE #:

E-MAIL ADDRESS: